



Congaree River Blue Trail Dedication and Inaugural Voyage

June 2, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.

Riverwalk Amphitheatre, West Columbia, SC

On June 2, 2007, American Rivers will dedicate the Congaree River Blue Trail as the nation's first under American Rivers' Blue Trail Initiative. Blue trails, or water trails, are the river equivalent to hiking trails. They are corridors established to facilitate recreation in and along rivers and other water bodies. Blue trails are found in urban settings as well as remote environments. They come in all shapes and sizes and are used by paddlers, anglers, hikers, picnickers, and those just seeking a bit of solitude.

Starting on the Congaree in downtown Columbia, the trail will offer paddlers an urban adventure with opportunities to learn about the historic significance of the area including prehistoric Native American sites along its tributaries. Continuing downstream, paddlers will cross the fall line and enter the Coastal Plain known for its countless sandbars, high bluffs, and extensive floodplain habitats.

The highlight of the trail is the section along the Congaree National Park, a protected wilderness that is home to the largest continuous tract of old growth bottomland hardwood forest in the U.S. Paddlers and hikers alike can enjoy the network of 20-miles of hiking trails within the park and take advantage of opportunities to camp, fish, watch birds, and study nature.

American Rivers' is the nation's leading river conservation organization with over 65,000 supporters across the country including many in South Carolina. The organization has been active in conservation issues affecting South Carolina rivers since 2001 and opened its Southeast Field Office in Columbia, SC in 2005.

Organizations partnering with American Rivers to develop the Congaree River Blue Trail include Congaree National Park, Richland County Conservation Commission, SC Department of Natural Resources, Congaree Land Trust, Friends of Congaree Swamp, Coastal Conservation League and the River Alliance.

Please join us on June 2 at 10:00 A.M. as we announce the Congaree River Blue Trail. Bring your boat and take part in the inaugural, 4-mile paddle down the Congaree River to the Cayce landing following the announcement.